

What is the difference between Sanitizers and Disinfectants?

While sanitizers and disinfectants are commonly referred to interchangeably, the two types of products are actually different, and should be used in different situations. Here's what you need to know about sanitizers and disinfectants.

To start off, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides the following definitions:

Cleaning removes germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces or objects. Cleaning works by using soap (or detergent) and water to physically remove germs from surfaces. This process does not necessarily kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.

Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces or objects. Disinfecting works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces or objects. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.

Note: Disinfectants must be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Earning the EPA registration as a disinfectant means the EPA has evaluated and tested the product to ensure it conforms to efficacy and safety standards

Sanitizing lowers the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements. This process **works by either cleaning or disinfecting** surfaces or objects to lower the risk of spreading infection.

ArmiClenz™ is an EPA Registered DISINFECTANT



CLEANER	SANITIZER	DISINFECTANT	VIRUCIDE	STERILANT
Aids in Soil Removal	Reduces the Number of Bacteria	Kills Fungi, Bacteria, and Viruses	Kills Viruses	Eliminates all Fungi, Bacteria, Viruses, and Spores
				
Simply aids in the removal of soil from a surface. Although cleaning does remove germs from a surface, it doesn't kill them.	Lowers the number of bacteria on surfaces to levels that are considered safe by public health orgs.	Kills infectious fungi, bacteria, and viruses but not bacterial spores on hard environmental surfaces.	Destroys or irreversibly inactivates viruses in the inanimate environment.	A sterilant is used to destroy or eliminate all forms of microbial life including fungi, viruses, and all forms of bacterial spores.

The CDC also recommends the following for routine cleaning and disinfecting:

Typically, this means daily sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, faucet handles, phones, and toys. Some schools may also require daily disinfecting these items. Standard procedures often call for disinfecting specific like bathrooms.

Immediately clean surfaces and objects that are visibly soiled. If surfaces or objects are soiled with body fluids or blood, use gloves and other standard precautions to avoid coming into contact with the fluid. Remove the spill, and then clean and disinfect the surface.

Always follow label directions on cleaning products and disinfectants. Wash surfaces with a general household cleaner to remove germs. Rinse with water, and follow with an EPA-registered disinfectant to kill germs. Read the label to make sure it states that EPA has approved the product for effectiveness against influenza A virus.

If a surface is not visibly dirty, you can clean it with an EPA-registered product that both cleans (removes germs) and disinfects (kills germs) instead. Be sure to read the label directions carefully, as there may be a separate procedure for using the product as a cleaner or as a disinfectant. Disinfection usually requires the product to remain on the surface for a certain period of time (e.g., letting it stand for 3 to 5 minutes).

Pay close attention to hazard warnings and directions on product labels. Cleaning products and disinfectants often call for the use of gloves or eye protection. For example, gloves should always be worn to protect your hands when working with bleach solutions.

Do not mix cleaners and disinfectants unless the labels indicate it is safe to do so. Combining certain products (such as chlorine bleach and ammonia cleaners) can result in serious injury or death.